



The National Spatial Reference System



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NGS defines and manages the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) - a consistent coordinate system that defines latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States, and how these values change with time. NSRS comprises:

- a consistent, accurate, and up-to-date national shoreline;
- the National CORS, a set of Global Positioning System Continuously Operating Reference Stations meeting NOAA standards for installation, operation, and data distribution;
- a network of permanently marked points including the Federal Base Network, Cooperative Base Network, and User Densification Network; and
- a set of accurate models describing dynamic geophysical processes that affect spatial measurements.

NSRS provides a highly accurate, precise, consistent geographic framework throughout the United States. It is the foundation for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, a critical component of the information superhighway. NSRS is a significant national resource - one whose value far exceeds its intended purpose.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Geodetic Survey

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) defines and manages the National Spatial Reference System, which determines position, height, distance, direction, gravity, and shoreline throughout the United States. Since 1807 NGS and its predecessor agencies have led the world in precise positioning and developed emerging technologies for the public. NGS provides its expertise and a wealth of free information, including direct access to its data base, on the World Wide Web at: www.ngs.noaa.gov

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